

## The Age of Nationalism - Day 2

Entrance task: *Think* – In what way is *nationalism* like a lightbulb?

Today: The Unification of Germany

Homework – Ch. 23-3 for Monday

## Kaiser Wilhelm I



## Chancellor Otto von Bismarck

*Realpolitik*



The "Iron  
Chancellor"

"Blood  
&  
Iron"



## Otto von Bismarck . . . .

The less people know about how  
sausages and laws are made, the better  
they'll sleep at night.

Never believe in anything until it has  
been officially denied.

The great questions of the day will not  
be settled by speeches and majority  
decisions—that was the mistake of 1848-  
1849—but by blood and iron.

## Otto von Bismarck . . . .

*I am bored. The great things are done.  
The German Reich is made.*

*A generation that has taken a beating is  
always followed by a generation that  
deals one.*

*Some damned foolish thing in the  
Balkans will provoke the next war.*



## Unification of Germany

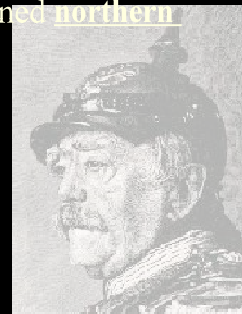
# Nationalism in Germany

- Military successes in Prussia encouraged nationalism
- Frankfurt Assembly attempted unification in 1848, but failed
- Prussia took control under strong leader Otto von Bismarck
- Bismarck was Prime Minister of Prussia
- Bismarck's approach to unify Germany was the policy of blood and iron
- Bismarck used the Franco-Prussian War to take land and force unification



## Path to Unification

1. ➡ The Danish War (1864) Prussia enlists Austria's help and uses the spoils of war to pick a fight.
2. ➡ Seven Weeks War - (Austro-Prussian War) 1866, joined northern German States into confederation.



# Path to Unification

3. **Franco-Prussian War** - four Southern German States joined confederation to defeat **Napoleon III**. This was a humiliating defeat for **France**, who desired revenge.
- ☒ Second German Empire or the **2nd Reich** was formed (1st Reich = **Holy Roman Empire**)
  - ☒ Kaiser **Wilhelm (William)** was main power  
Bismarck as Chief Minister continued to make alliances with -  
**Russia** and **Britain** to try and isolate France to keep it weak.
  - ☒ A new Kaiser (Wilhelm II) fired Bismarck out in 1888 giving France opportunity to make new alliances with **Britain** and **Russia**, setting the stage for **World War**.



## Step #1:

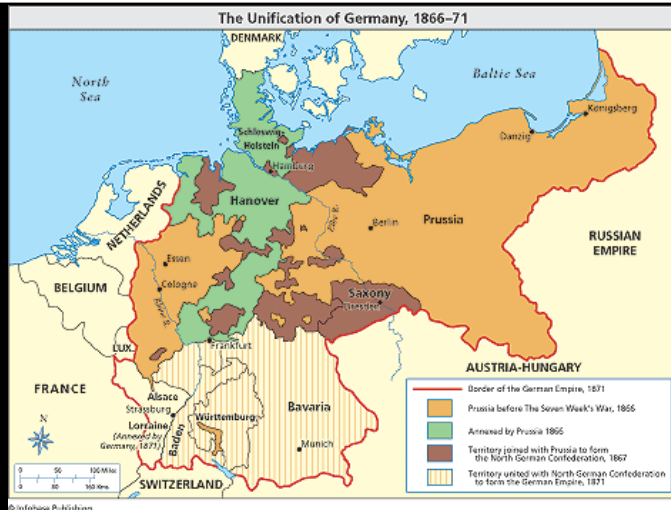
### The Danish War [1864]

### The Peace of Vienna



## Step #2:

### Seven Weeks War [1866]



He then established a new North German Confederation which Prussia could control → Peace of Prague

## Step #3: Franco-Prussian War [1870-1871]



German soldiers "abusing"  
the French.

## Ems Dispatch [1870]: A

1868 revolt in Spain.

Spanish leaders wanted  
Prince Leopold von Hohenz.

[a cousin to the Kaiser & a  
Catholic], as their new king.

France protested & his name was withdrawn.

The Fr. Ambassador asked the Kaiser at Ems to apologize  
Nap. III for supporting Leopold.

Bismarck "doctored" the telegram from Wilhelm to the French  
Ambassador to make it seem as though the Kaiser had insulted  
Napoleon III.



His Majesty the King has written to me:

### The original telegraph

"Count Benedetti intercepted me on the promenade and ended by demanding of me in a very importunate manner that I should authorize him to telegraph at once that I bound myself in perpetuity never again to give my consent if the Hohenzollerns renewed their candidature.

I rejected this demand somewhat sternly as it is neither right nor possible to undertake engagements of this kind [for ever and ever]. Naturally I told him that I had not yet received any news and since he had been better informed via Paris and Madrid than I was, he must surely see that my government was not concerned in the matter."

[The King, on the advice of one of his ministers] "decided in view of the above-mentioned demands not to receive Count Benedetti any more, but to have him informed by an adjutant that His Majesty had now received [from Leopold] confirmation of the news which Benedetti had already had from Paris and had nothing further to say to the ambassador.

His Majesty suggests to Your Excellency that Benedetti's new demand and its rejection might well be communicated both to our ambassadors and to the Press."



## Ch. 23 Unification of Germany.notebook

"After the news of the renunciation of the Prince von Hohenzollern had been communicated to the Imperial French government by the Royal Spanish government, the French Ambassador in Ems made a further demand on His Majesty the King that he should authorize him to telegraph to Paris that His Majesty the King undertook for all time never again to give his assent should the Hohenzollerns once more take up their candidature. His Majesty the King thereupon refused to receive the Ambassador again and had the latter informed by the adjutant of the day that His Majesty had no further communication to make to the Ambassador."



*Bismarck selectively deleted some words from the original telegram to give the provocative impression that each side had insulted the other. He fully expected that both the content, and the manner of release, would act as "red rags to the Gallic Bull." It was critical, in Bismarck's view, that France be perceived as the attacking power.*

*France declared war on the Kingdom of Prussia on July 19, 1870.*

## Bismarck & Napoleon III After Sedan

**Napoleon III:**  
"I may forgive you,  
history may forgive you,  
but my people will  
NEVER forgive you."





# Treaty of Frankfurt [1871]

- \* The Second French Empire collapsed and was replaced by the Third French Republic.
- \* The Italians took Rome and made it their capital.
- \* Russia put warships in the Black Sea [in defiance of the 1856 Treaty of Paris that ended the Crimean War].
- \* France paid a huge indemnity and was occupied by German troops until it was paid.
- \* France ceded Alsace-Lorraine to Germany [a region rich in iron deposits with a flourishing textile industry].

## Coronation of Kaiser Wilhelm I [r. 1871–1888]

Guess where?



## A new balance of power

- A. Germany - became the dominant power in Europe
  - i. World's greatest **military power**
  - ii. One of the two greatest **naval** powers
- B. A unified Germany destabilized European power structure

## A new balance of power

- C. France - chief loser during unification process
  - i. Germany, once unified, was hostile to France
  - ii. Germany took **Alsace-Lorraine**, became France's chief enemy
  - iii. For the first time since 1648, Britain was not the dominant European nation.
- D. Austria-Hungary was weakened
  - i. A **multi-national** country in period of nationalism
  - ii. Expelled from Italy and Germany, turned to **the Balkans**
  - iii. This involvement in the Balkans would lead to **World War I**



## 19<sup>th</sup> century European Nationalism

Homework – Ch. 23-3 for Monday  
Review 23-2 - Franco-Prussian  
War and the Paris Commune

